

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 33439 101619Z

46

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 EA-09 COME-00

ISO-00 TRSE-00 EUR-12 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

CIEP-02 CEA-01 IOE-00 NEA-10 /101 W

----- 079406

R 100430Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7037

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS BANGKOK 33439

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, ESCAP

SUBJECT: ESCAP INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEB 1-7, 1977

REF: STATE 296157

1. TOKYO IRD MEETING HAS CAUSED CONCERN AMONG SOME ESCAP MEMBERS OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF DOCUMENTATION AND APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES INVOLVED. ACCORDINGLY, SECRETARIAT CALLED MEETING AFTERNOON OF 9 DECEMBER WITH PERM REPS TO INFORMALLY REVIEW PROGRESS.

2. SECRETARIAT CONSIDERS SUBJECT MEETING HIGHLY IMPORTANT AS AN ESCAP ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE LEAD IN ACHIEVING A PROPERLY COORDINATED INTERAGENCY APPROACH IN THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AREA. THEY TABLED THE TWO KEY SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOR THE TOKYO AGENDA, NAMELY A DRAFT PROGRAM OF WORK AND PRIORITIES, 1978-79 AND, PROPOSALS FOR A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION. WE WERE INFORMED THAT LATTER PAPER HAS FULL INTERAGENCY COORDINATION. (BOTH DRAFT PAPERS BEING POUCHED TO CHAVEAS).

3. SECRETARIAT ANTICIPATES PRINCIPAL AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT WILL ATTEND INCLUDING IBRD AND ADB.
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 33439 101619Z

UNCTAD HAS ALREADY REGRETTED. AGENCIES HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED

TO SUBMIT APPROPRIATE PAPERS. SECRETARIAT HOPES TO ELICIT REVIEW AND NATIONAL REACTIONS TO ITS WORK PROGRAM AT TOKYO MEETING. THEY WILL ALSO SEEK VIEWS AND PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT 78-79 WORK PROGRAM FROM ALL PARTICIPANTS.

4. ESCAP WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THE PAST JAPAN/FAO MEETINGS WHICH WERE MAINLY ATTENDED BY SPECIFICALLY INVITED MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TECHNICAL OFFICIALS INVITED FROM CERTAIN COUNTRIES. THE TOKYO MEETING IS AN INTERAGENCY MEETING; THOSE WERE NOT. HOWEVER, RESULTS OF THOSE MEETINGS MAY BE CONSIDERED AT TOKYO DURING THE CONFERENCE.

5. TOKYO MEETING INVOLVES A POLITICAL EVALUATION FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES AND HOW NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS WISH THOSE AGENCIES TO WORK TOGETHER. THE TECHNICAL QUESTION OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY IS SECONDARY. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WELL-BRIEFED SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES BE INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION. IF FURTHER INFO REQUIRED, CHAVEAS CAN REACH SKIFF IN TEHRAN 10-18 DECEMBER.

6. COMMENT: CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED AT ABOVE MEETING OVER FAO'S WITHDRAWAL OF RESOURCE SUPPORT FROM ESCAP AND WHETHER FAO WOULD FULLY COOPERATE AT TOKYO MEETING. EQUAL CONCERN WAS GIVEN TO ESCAP'S INTERNAL WORK PROGRAM PAPER WHICH INCLUDED NO REFERENCE TO THE CURRENT WORK OF OTHER AGENCIES IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT FIELD.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO33439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760456-1039
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761251/aaaabseg.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 296157
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESCAP INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT, TOKYO, FEB 1-7, 1977
TAGS: OCON, TH, ESCAP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006